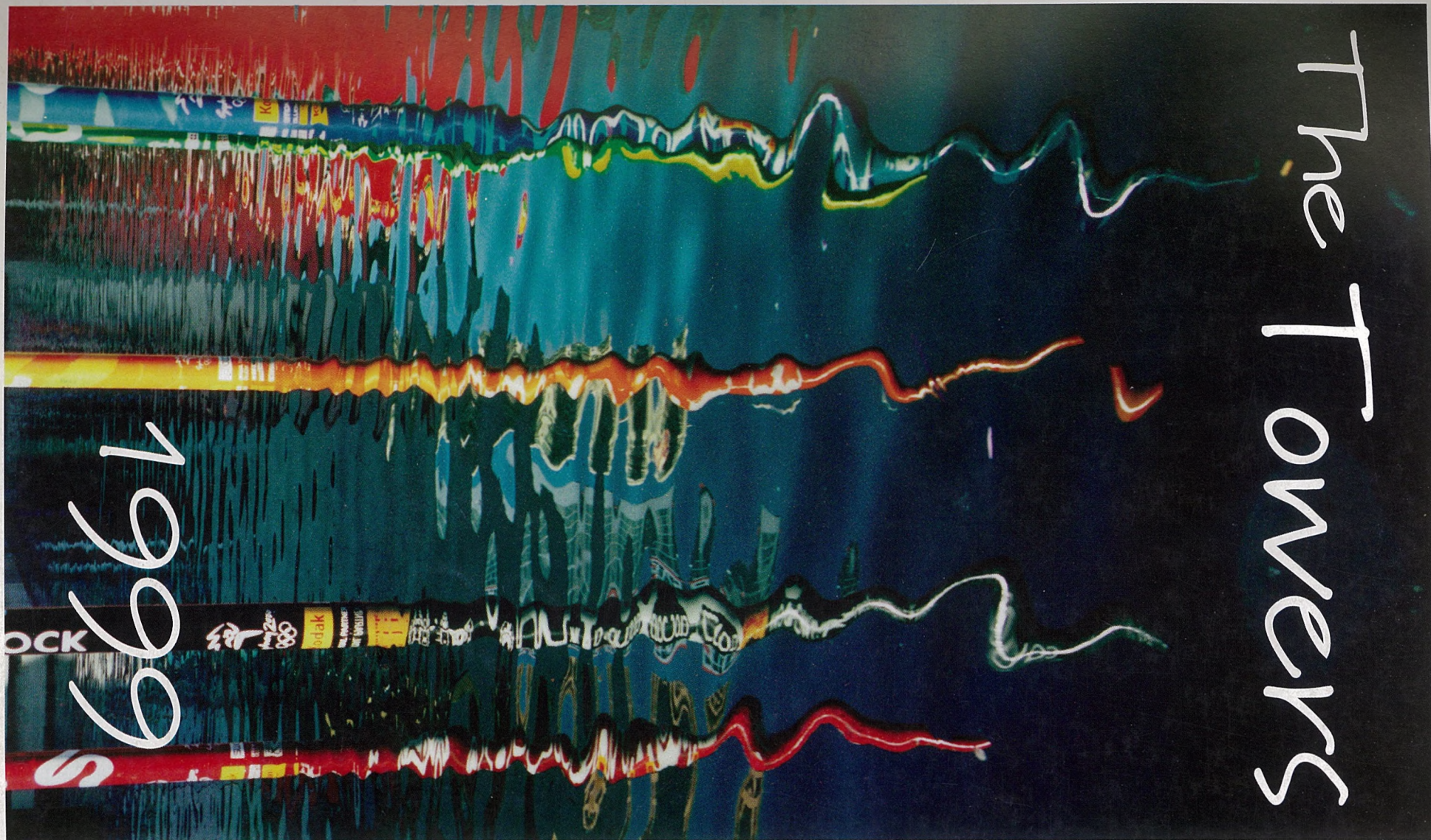


penrith high school yearbook

The Towers

1999



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Front cover artwork:

reflections

by Catherine Frost

Year 12 Visual Arts

A yearbook is to be treasured, like the jelly bean at the end of a visit to the doctor. A collection of the long year's events, a presentation of our finest literary works, illustrations, achievements, ideas, embarrassing photographs and memories . . . leaving a lasting taste for years to come.

This has been another outstanding year for Penrith High School. Our athletes, speakers, thinkers and performers continue to excel, radiating the spirit, talent and enthusiasm that make our school unique.

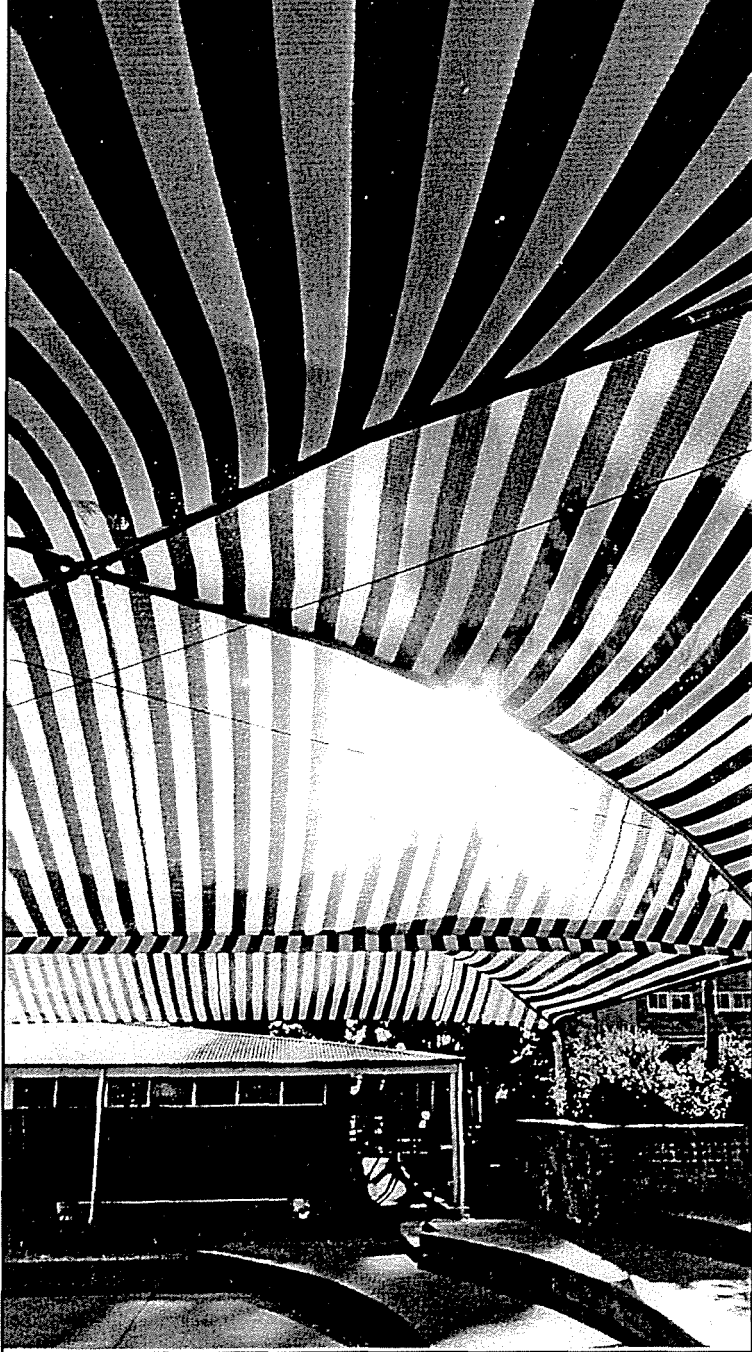
Having encountered such a smorgasbord of achievements and events, being selective proved an arduous task for all concerned with the yearbook. The gruelling process of writing, editing and compiling has gobbled up countless hours from a broad spectrum of students and staff, in particular, Mrs Bernays. To these people the greatest thanks and congratulations have been earned.

Finally to you, whose remarkable, quirky and diverse personalities make this *your* yearbook, we offer it with pleasure. . .

We hope it's yummy!!

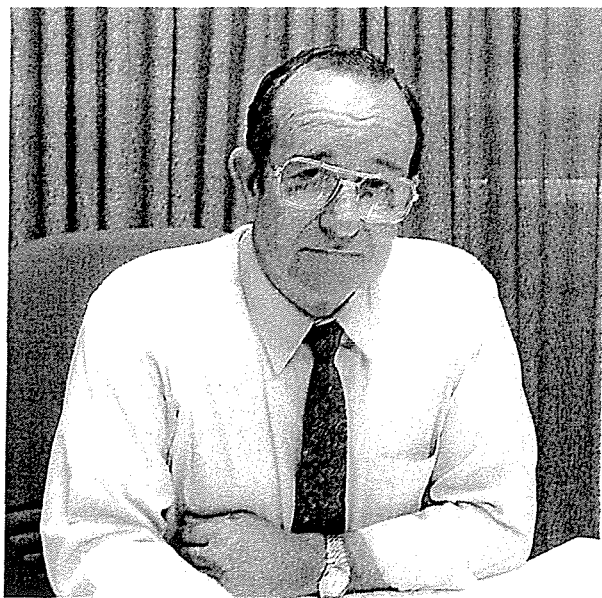
Lisa
Rachel

Lisa Dennis
Rachel Rowe
Editors



Photograph by Mr P. Mills

Principal Matters



Once again the end of another school year approaches. As you read this school yearbook you read of the outstanding successes attained by our students in all

forums of school endeavours. They are too numerous to mention here but they make me proud to be associated with your successes. I would like to congratulate the HSC class of 1998 on their great results. The previous year's class set them a high standard and they responded magnificently to produce the best all round results since the school became an academic selective high school in 1989. Classes of the future have been given a high benchmark to follow.

As this will be my last year before my retirement, let me say what a great honour it has been to be principal of this great school for the past 14 years. It has been a privilege to have been here and to be associated with its conversion to an academic selective high school. To observe the dedication and hard work of the students has been very rewarding. You all have been so great to work with that I feel humbled. I hope that in some way I have contributed towards your schooling. May I wish you all the very best for your future and thank you for the many memories I have of Penrith High School.

Mr P. Press

Parents and Citizens

Penrith High School Parents' and Citizens Association (P&C) is for parents of students attending the school, and for interested citizens of the local community. Every third Tuesday of the month, committee members attend meetings with Mr Press, who gives a report on school activities and discusses various issues. Currently the committee is involved in preparations for next year's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The aim of the P&C is to promote both Penrith High School and its interests, and to assist the school with the purchase of teaching aids and equipment. It also serves to inform parents on Department of Education matters. Overall, the P&C endeavours to support our school and students in creating a safe and secure environment for education.

Mrs J. Rutherford

Canteen Committee

The canteen provides students with a range of nutritious foods at reasonable prices. Also for sale are certain items of school uniform, along with stationery items for those last minute exam purchases. The canteen's profit is given to the school through the P&C, to be used for the benefit of all students. The canteen is run by a paid manager and an assistant,

along with the support of about 20 volunteers. Nine Year 10 students help on a roster basis at recess and lunch, with nine Year 9 students to fill in when they are away. The canteen is also assisted by several Year 7 mums who volunteered this year, but further volunteers are always appreciated.

Mrs M. Ward



Press Release-d

Principal freed after thirty nine years devotion to education.

In November of this year, Mr P. Press, long time principal of Penrith High School, will leave these hallowed halls to take up a new calling in life, that of retired teacher.

Mr Press was born in Gulargambone, NSW, in 1939, the only son of Osea and Phyllis Press. His first contact with the education system of NSW occurred when he was enrolled in Gulargambone Primary school (and later Central school) in 1946. At the age of thirteen, he left home to attend Dubbo High School for four years, completing the Leaving Certificate (now the HSC) in 1956.

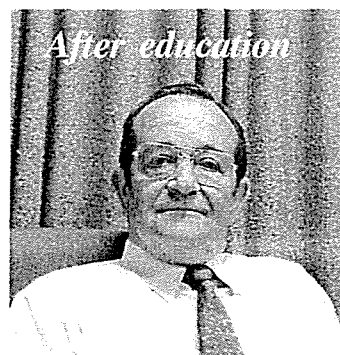
At first, he boarded at a church hostel for boys for fifteen months but later moved into more pleasant circumstances in a private home. He enjoyed all aspects of school life, especially playing cricket and football. However, a broken leg in 1956 put a finish to his football career.

- He obtained an excellent pass in the Leaving Certificate and accepted a Teachers Scholarship to Sydney University, where he studied for a Bachelor of Science Degree. He graduated with majors in Chemistry and Pure Mathematics in 1957 and followed this with a Diploma in Education being qualified to teach both Science and Mathematics.

His first appointment was to Quirindi High School at the beginning of 1961, where he was the only Physics / Chemistry teacher on the staff. He was also expected to teach a senior Maths class. After five years he was appointed Maths Master and stayed at Quirindi until the end of 1969.

In 1970, he transferred to Nepean High as Maths Master. This was the beginning of his association with the Penrith area, and he developed a great liking for it and its students. Eager for promotion, he was appointed to Narromine High School (1980-1982) and then Dubbo High School (1983-1985) as Deputy Principal. It was interesting to return to his old school as Deputy and work with some of his former teachers who were still on the staff. 1986 saw his appointment as Principal at Penrith High School, a position he has occupied for the past fourteen years.

In the future, Mr Press intends to live in the Penrith area and travel



around Australia, especially the Top End and the western parts of the country. Most importantly, he intends to enjoy more time with his wife, Shirley, his two children and his new grandchild. "I am looking forward to being able to have time to myself to do those simple things that I have not been able to do in the past."

A skilled model builder, Mr Press has a keen interest in trains and model railways. Recently, however, a fascination for sailing boats has surfaced. "Strange," he reflects, "for a person raised in far western NSW where water is a rare commodity." For many years, he has been an enthusiastic lawn bowler, enjoying both the friendship and the competition.

In his time at PHS, Mr Press has overseen its biggest change, from local comprehensive school to selective high school. Of this metamorphosis he says: "It has been a privilege to have been the Principal of the school during this time and I hope that I have made some small contribution to this change. Observing the changes that have taken place to this school, and the work and dedication of both staff and students convinces me that there is a place in our education system for this type of school."

We congratulate Mr Press on a long and successful career in education, and wish him a happy, healthy and fruitful retirement.

(Ed comment : We certainly will miss him. We will have to struggle on at barbeques, Year Seven nights, etc without his scintillating sausage sizzle skills.)

The Father of Time

*I am the tree, the father of time,
Stern, wise but free.*

*I am the guardian of the earth,
I have seen it grow to be strong.*

*I have seen many autumns,
Their sunsets walking the sky.
The winters cold, harsh and mocking.
And the song of Spring, reviving everything.*

*My finger-like branches grope for sunlight,
As my arms move restlessly they swish and glide.
I was lively, I am now content,
Living my life in peace.*

Thomas Conroy, 7H

farewell

Kate Wheen
(vice captain)

Mark McCartney
(captain)

Amy Richardson
(captain)

Martin Brailey
(vice captain)

To be school captain of Penrith High School is to occupy the most prestigious position in Australia (closely followed by the Prime Minister and Captain of the Australian Cricket team.) As School Captains we feel greatly honoured to have been given the opportunity to fill this position. We are both proud and privileged to have represented such a magnificent school, a school in which students have the advantage of learning in a friendly and encouraging environment. Thus, it is with sinking hearts that we depart our beloved western home, and head towards the grand arches of the big wide world.

For the last six years we have spent over six hours a day, every weekday, for forty weeks of the year, serving time at the school. For seven thousand two hundred hours we have been made to enjoy sitting in freezing cold or boiling hot classrooms,

pretending to pay attention, doing seemingly endless 1.6km laps of the school in PE, and countless other tasks that generations of teachers have perfected... (and the question is why are we still sitting in the library writing this report?) The answer is because we love the place!! The atmosphere, the staff, the students, and the camaraderie that glues it all together. It is also the imperfections that we have grown to love. The blue phone that never works, the holes in the floors of the history rooms, the all or nothing blinds, the Blue Mountains train reports and the unique apricot decor which has been combined artistically with the lemon and brown uniforms - these things are the essence of Penrith High.

Throughout our time not only as School Captains but as students of Penrith High many people have helped us allow our dreams to become a reality. We would like to thank all the Staff, especially Mr Press, Mr Wingett, Mr McLellan, and Mr Davi, the students and our trusty allies Kate and Martin whose help we couldn't have done without.

We will always treasure the time we have had at Penrith High and look back on the memories with a fondness that will remain devoted to PHS. So this is Mark and Amy signing off for the last time in '99.

Amy Richardson and Mark McCartney

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Have you ever wondered what our student representatives do at their meetings?

Over the past year, the Student Representative Council has organised and initiated many student activities including discos, barbecues and School Spirit Week. Variety Night, held last year, was also a huge success. Special thanks to guest Craig Gower.

Through the running of such activities the SRC has also raised lots of money, both for charity and students of the school. Four charities were supported this year, Daffodil Day, Barnardos, Jeans For Genes Day and Red Nose Day. For the students, the SRC was able to provide hand dryers, soap dispensers and lockers with money raised. Our Olympic hopefuls have particularly benefited: donations to the athletes' costs of state and national representation being greatly appreciated.

Also this year, four members of our school have been sent to the District SRC. Here they interact with students from other schools, discussing common interests, aims and concerns.

So, while you're reminiscing on Wacky Hair Day or enjoying the heat of the hand dryers, you know whom

to thank. The Student Representative Council has benefited our school and community in a number of ways. With a creative and energetic new SRC for 99-00 now sworn in, we look forward to many more innovations and events to arouse our spirits and brighten the school.

Rhiannon Sawyer & Anthony Samson

house happenings

Throughout the 1998/99 House Captains' term of office, many activities were undertaken and funds raised. House Captains, the SRC and roll representatives all attended a school Leadership Conference in order to discuss house issues and raise points on improvement within the school environment.

During the year, Blaxland house successfully continued with its efforts to support a World Vision child and also began with the raising of funds to support the Sydney City Mission. Lawson house held a Hot Dog Day in order to raise funds for school improvements. Mitchell house continued with its paper recycling, and also raised funds to help Nepean Hospital's children's ward. Wentworth has, by far, been the most successful house on the sporting field, winning all three sporting carnivals. They have also raised funds for the school by holding a Pancake Breakfast and "W"-Day.

Claire Anderson



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